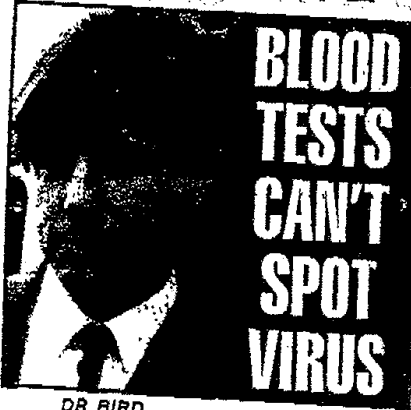


FROM OVER

2

Daily Record



DR BIRD

A SCOTS woman is suffering from a new strain of the killer AIDS virus.

The new type of virus is undetectable by normal blood screening - the standard world-wide test for HIV.

The woman, the wife of an Edinburgh haemophiliac, is one of just 18 people in the world known to have the new strain of the virus. The grim news was broken by Edinburgh-based AIDS expert Dr Graham Bird at an international conference on the disease in Amsterdam at the weekend.

Vaccine

Dr Bird and his team - the first of its kind in the UK - revealed they have identified four different strains of HIV.

He was not available for comment last night.

But a colleague at the Edinburgh-based Centre for HIV Research revealed that they were a step further down the long road to finding an AIDS vaccine.

The first aim is to

Turn to Page Four

27 JUL 1992

New AIDS bug

From Page One
develop a drug to kill the virus within the first two weeks of infection.

Dr Andrew Leigh-Brown explained: "All the strains can disguise themselves to fool the body's defence systems."

Drug

"But all four are similar in the early stages and this may mean we don't have to worry quite so much about the variations as we did."

Now scientists hope they can use the breakthrough to find a single vaccine to hit the virus

before it starts to change itself to beat the body's immune system.

Dr Leigh-Brown made the discovery after examining samples of the virus taken from infected needle-sharing drug users and haemophiliacs, using techniques similar to police genetic fingerprinting.

He found three sub-strains of the virus in haemophiliacs and one common to drug users and heterosexuals.

But Dr Leigh-Brown warned: "Any vaccine will still be a long, long way in the future."